



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email brenda@pnmc.org. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Perhaps by now you have received information regarding litigation that has been filed by MC USA and 26 other denominations and faith communities against the Trump administration's decision to rescind the Sensitive Locations policy. This federal policy that has protected immigrants and refugees from immigration raids by Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other federal and local law enforcement personnel in schools and in houses of faith and worship.

(Click [here](#) for the MC USA press release in English, and [here](#) for the Spanish version.)



I want to share with you that I am working with colleagues and leaders in several denominations here in the PNW, including the ELCA Lutheran church and the United Church of Christ, to draft an open letter that voices support for and solidarity with our immigrant community members, friends and neighbors. Once completed, our hope is that this letter will be sent out to congregations and communities, inviting your signatures if you wish to join us in speaking out in this way. I will share more information as it comes available.

Additionally, the [Center for Faith and Justice](#) has made available a nationwide petition that people may sign to speak out against the current policies of the federal government and voice support for honoring the Sensitive Locations Policy. You can find that petition [here](#).

Finally, I want to offer a word of encouragement that arose out of a gathering of MC USA conference ministers earlier this week. We spent much of our time talking about the dangers and risks faced by our immigrant community members, and we were in agreement that the single best way we can respond as the church is on the most localized level. If you have immigrants in your congregation, please check in and discern what will be the most beneficial support you can offer at this time. Please consider connecting with an immigrant advocacy group in your local area or region, and listen for what the immigrant community in your area is most needing. **Stand alongside our siblings in Christ with faith, hope and love.**

We follow and center ourselves on Jesus, who offered his primary attention and presence not to those who represented the powers and principalities, but to those who were among the outcasts, the oppressed and the marginalized. The Body of Christ transcends all borders and boundaries that keep people apart. May we together be a living and vibrant expression of the Body of Christ in this world.

*Any immigrant who lives with you
must be treated as if
they were one of your citizens.
You must love them as yourself,
because you were immigrants . . .*

LEVITICUS 19:34

"Photos of Immigrants," Carl Purcell

I will close my note with this prayer that **Pastor Megan Ramer** (Seattle Mennonite Church) shared in a recent PNMC meeting:

**Jesus, amplify the good,
disrupt the plans of evil,
show me my place. Amen**

Yours In Christ's Hope and Love,

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The PNMHS Annual Meeting is **Saturday, March 15, 2025** at Zion Mennonite Church. "What's the Problem with Christian Nationalism," will be presented by **Michele Hershberger**, Professor of Bible at Hesston College, Hesston, KS. Michele will share a Biblical rationale for the separation of church and state that informed early Anabaptist thinking 500 years ago. She will share the relevance of that thinking for today and for the future. An offering to support Historical Society work will be taken. The luncheon cost is \$15 per person. (RSVP needed only for luncheon by **March 7** to [Jerry Barkman](#) [503-871-6413]. No RSVP needed for the program.)

Albany Mennonite Church

On **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, 9-3, AMC (3405 Kizer Ave, Albany) will host a **Winter Warm Up for MCC**. All are welcome! If you have tops, batting and backing to share, please bring them along. Beverages will be provided but please bring your own lunch. Questions? Contact Nancy Friesen at 541-979-9759. Participate as long as you are able!



Salem Mennonite Church

Recently, Sister congregations, Salem Mennonite Church and Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva, which share the Keizer, OR-based sanctuary, came together for a joint worship service and potluck. SMC congregational representative **Marlene Bogard** reflected that a shared meal between the two congregations had not happened for a long time. The two congregations enjoyed fellowship together during worship and potluck on January 12, 2025. During the joint service, SMC member, **Bethany Loberg** spoke on **The Courage to Love**. Bethany is currently serving with Mennonite Central Committee in México. (Picture by Debbie Pauls)

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

MennoMedia

Black History is more than just a month. Herald Press has many offerings to expand your view and provide insight on topics, such as race, that can be difficult to discuss. Many white Christians avoid talking about it altogether. But a commitment to peacemaking requires people to step out of their comfort and privilege and into the work of anti-racism. *Explore titles [here](#).* In addition, be sure to check out Mennonite Church USA's timeline on "Black History in the Mennonite Church." View it [here](#).

West Coast MCC

Stones Cry Out Peace Camp (Campamento de Paz, Las Piedras Claman) March 10 - 15, 2025

If we remain silent, the stones will cry out! (Luke 19:40) Are you a young adult concerned about climate change and forced migration? The Stones Cry Out Peace Camp is for you! Join us at the MCC Welcoming Place in Akron, PA. Young adults aged 18-30 are encouraged to apply. \$250 registration fee - MCC covers all travel, lodging, and meals. Learn more and register [here](#).

Mennonite Mission Network

Are you hungry to become better acquainted with Indigenous Peoples, their profound connection to the land we inhabit, and the settler colonial history that is antagonistic to their culture, spirituality, and way of life? You and your community are invited to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations. What might it mean for your community to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and actively contribute to the work of repair? This pilgrimage experience takes place **April 8-12, 2025**, and will be hosted by the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), led by executive director **Sarah Augustine**, on the ancestral homeland of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Indian Reservation) in the state of Washington. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

Brethren Mennonite Council

[Fabulous Fierce & Sacred](#) is a weekend gathering to celebrate Trans & Queer joy! It will be held in **Philadelphia, PA May 2-4, 2025**. Hosting churches include Germantown Mennonite Church and West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship. The gathering is open to all people of all ages, *and* since we are working to center queer/trans peoples there may be a cap on the number of allies invited to attend. If you are not able to join yet would like to show support - you can [make a donation to the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests \(BMC\)](#) in support of the **Solidarity Fund**. Put "My Donation is in honor of FFS" in the donation line.



Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Kathryn "Kate" Newswanger grew up attending Salem Mennonite Church in Keizer, OR with her family. Kate has been diagnosed with autism, ADHD, generalized anxiety disorder, and dyscalculia, so naturally she knows a fair bit about living life as a neurodivergent person. From an early age, writing has been a passion of theirs, so getting a piece published is a dream come true. She lives in Salem, OR with her parents, her brother, and her cat, Lola. To put yourself in the shoes of someone who might navigate the world differently than you, read Kate's poem "[Typical](#)."

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC has reached a settlement with a couple who allege their employment as service workers was terminated without sufficient cause. The couple had raised concerns about workplace abuse. **MCC Abuse Survivors Together (MAST)** said [in a Jan. 31 release](#) that MCC will pay Anicka Fast and John Clarke \$180,000 CAD (\$124,400 US). MCC neither admits nor denies wrongdoing in the settlement. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 3 (submissions due by 2/24)
Mar 17 (submissions by 3/10)
Apr 7 (submissions due by 3/31)
Apr 21 (submissions due by 4/14)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>